

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04501 181254Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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R 181015Z JUNE 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2398
INFO /AMEMBASSY CONAKRY 55
USLO RIYADH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, SA, GV
SUBJ: SEKOU TOUR'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. AHMAD SEKOU TOURE HAS COMPLETED OFFICIAL PART OF HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, AND LEFT RIYADH JUNE 14 TO PERFORM THE PILGRIMAGE BEFORE TRAVELLING TO DOHA ON JUNE 16. JOINT COMMUNIQUE MAY BE ISSUED AFTER DEPARTURE, BUT PRESS HAS GIVEN SOME INFORMATION ABOUT VISIT.

2. ECONOMIC AID. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT AT MEETINGS OF ECONOMIC DELEGATION GUINEANS SUBMITTED A NUMBER OF PROJECTS FOR SAUDI ARABIAN FINANCING. THESE PROJECTS INVOLVED CONSTRUCTION OF DAM AND AN ALUMINUM PLANT AT CONAKRY. GUINEAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ALSO MENTIONED THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO HIGHWAY PROJECT AND MOSQUE CONSTRUCTION IN HIS COUNTRY.

3. IN INTERVIEW WITH SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, TOURE CALLED FOR END OF ALL FORMS OF FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA AND SAID THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY AFRICANS THROUGH THE OAU. HE SAID THAT DIVISIONS IN AFRICA WERE TO CERTAIN EXTENT SIMILAR TO THOSE IN MIDDLE
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 04501 181254Z

EAST AND HAVE BEEN USED BY BIG POWERS TO DEEPEN DISAGREEMENTS AMONG CONTINENT'S PEOPLES.

4. ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION, TOURE URGED ARAB COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, TO AGREE TO MINIMUM OF COOPERATION AND TO ACT COLLECTIVELY TO SETTLE THEIR

CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL. TOURE SAID RECONCILIATION AMONG THE ARABS WILL HELP SECURE AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR ARABS AND HELP BOTH ARABS AND ISRAELIS TO OVERCOME WHAT HE CALLED "FRUITLESS CONFLICT" IN MIDDLE EAST. NOTHING THAT ARABS AND JEWS HAD ALWAYS LIVED TOGETHER IN PALESTINE, TOURE SAID, "ARABS OWN A HISTORICAL RIGHT TO THE LAND OF PALESTINE."

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON VISIT WAS USUAL BOILERPLATE. SAUDI GAZETTE EDITORIAL PRAISED TOURE'S DEDICATION TO AN INDEPENDENT AFRICA AND RECALLED HIS 1958 DECLARATION AGAINST JOINING THE FRENCH COMMUNITY. THE PAPER WRITES, "IT MUST ALSO BE CREDITED TO THE AFRICAN LEADER THAT WHILE OTHERS ARE NOW FALLING RAPIDLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE TWO CAMPS, HE WARNS THAT THE STANDS TAKEN BY SUPER AND BIG POWERS ARE. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, AIMED AT THE SERVICE OF THE INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES OF THESE POWERS. SUCH SETS OF INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE SMALLER COUNTRIES INVOLVED." WEST

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